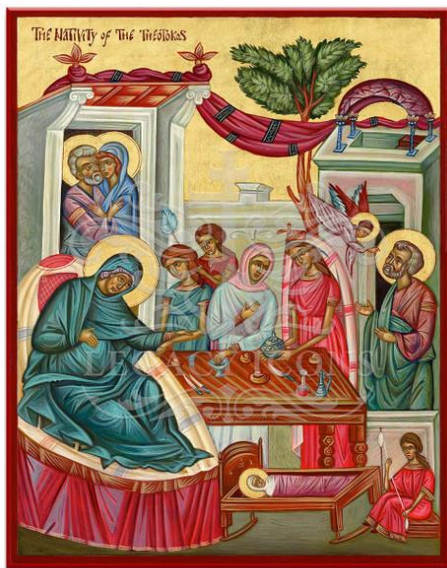


WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 3, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 34
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost



SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

Church Hall: 330-724-7129

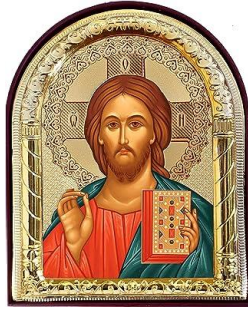
Office: 330-724-7009

www.saintelia.com

www.facebook.com/sainteliakron

*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA
Very Rev. Mitred Archbishop Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*

PRAYER FOR CHURCH NEW YEAR
SEPTEMBER 1



O Master, Lord our God, the fountain of life and immortality, the Creator of all things visible and invisible, who governs the seasons and the years and guides all things with Thy wise providence; we thank Thee for all the blessings Thou hast poured out upon us during the past years of our lives, and we beg Thee, O all-bountiful Lord, bless this New Year with Thy goodness, direct our civil authorities in the path of goodness, bestow Thy heavenly blessings upon all Thy people: health, salvation and growth in virtue. Deliver Thy Holy Church, every city, village and countryside from every assault of the devil, and grant us peace and tranquility; and grant that we may always offer thanksgiving unto Thee, the Father who is from everlasting, together with Thine only-begotten Son, and Thy most holy, good, and lifegiving Spirit: God glorified in three Persons, and may joyfully praise Thine all Holy Name.

Glory to Thee, O God, our Savior, unto ages of ages.
Amen!

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2023 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas

V. President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley

Members: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas,
Bud Graham, Sarah Kostadinova,
COCA Representative: Mary Marcin

Choir Director: Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas

Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh, Reader Michael Luc

Church School: Anastasia Bohush

Sisterhood of St. Juliana:

President: Anastasia Bohush,

V. President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Katherine Hodge

Treasurer: Mary Magensky

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2023

Sunday, September 3 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Sunday, September 10 – Hours – Mary Beth Gray

Epistle – Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Sunday, September 17 - Bud Graham

Sunday, September 24 – Sandy Graham

Sunday, October 1 - Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Friday, September 1 -Church New Year

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4

Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia

Saturday, September 2

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, September 3

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Prayers for the CHURCH NEW YEAR

Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gesh

Epistle: 1Cor. 16:13-24 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

**PANAKHIDA requested by the John Bohush Family
for the repose of the souls of Father John Bohush,
Matushka Patricia Bohush, Olga Bilas, Sasha
Macura**

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY

THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Thursday, September 7

**6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5 - Sunday

**Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Afterfeast of the
Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos**

Saturday, September 9

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, September 10

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: John 3:13-17

PRAYER and BLESSING for School Year

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will ^[a]render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the LORD’s doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 8

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind. The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and

Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared

themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: “the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls.”

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God will be celebrated with a Vespereal Divine Liturgy on Thursday, September 7, at 6:00 pm.

Sisterhood of St. Juliana News
QUARTER AUCTION – OCTOBER 14

We are in need of BASKETS for our Quarter Auction. The more baskets we have, the greater our profit could potentially be.

Donations can be valued at any amount. Baskets and Gift Card donations should be turned in by **Sunday, October 8th**. If you would like to donate towards a Basket, but do not want to shop, please see Ana Bohush (Venmo orCash).

Basket ideas include:

- Wine Lovers
- Spa Day
- Night Out
- Cookbook Basket
- Coffee Lovers
- Book-a-Holic
- Holiday Theme
- Guardians/Browns
- Motivation
- Wellness
- Sweets Basket
- Candles\
- Lottery Tree (scratch offs)
- Beer Basket
- Children's Basket etc.

Please see Sarah or Anna with questions1

Save the Date: Keep Saturday, February 10th booked on your calendar. We are reviving our Salad Bingo Supper. More information coming.

THE CALL TO SERVANTOOD



FROG KISSIN'

Ever feel like a frog? Frogs feel slow, low, ugly, puffy, drooped, pooped. I know. One told me. The frog feeling comes when you want to be bright but feel dumb, when you want to share but are selfish, when you want to be thankful but feel resentment, when you want to be great but are small, when you want to care but are indifferent.

Yes, at one time or another each of us has found himself/herself on a illy pad floating down the great river of life. Frightened and disgusted, we are too froggish to budge.

Once upon a time there was a frog. But he really wasn't a frog. He was a prince who looked and felt like a frog. A wicked witch had cast a spell on him.

Only the kiss of a beautiful maiden could save him.
But since when do cute chicks kiss frogs?

So, there he sat, an un-kissed prince in frog form.
But miracles happen. One day a beautiful maiden
grabbed him up and gave him a big smack. Crash!
Boom! Zap! There he was a handsome prince.

And you know the rest. They lived happily ever
after.

**SO WHAT IS THE TASK OF THE CHURCH
AND ULTIMATELY THE PARISH? TO KISS
FROGS, OF COURSE.**

We are the voice of Christ in a changing world.
The base from which we serve as *The Voice of Christ
in a Changing World* is the Parish.

A strong Parish provides opportunities for sharing
the Good News of Christ, for welcoming those that are
searching for a spiritual home, and a base from which
we are sent out into the world. The Parish also
provides a place of worship, community and education
in the faith.

To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be
stewards of our Parish. This requires the vision and
inspiration to see the Parish, not as it is, but as it could
be. We are called to offer ourselves in servanthood to
one another to make our Parish all that it can be.

***Do not think that you have a right to complain when
your prayers are not answered. God fulfills your
desires in a manner that you do not know.***

Saint Nektarios of Aegina

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
September 12 at 7:00 pm

OUR STEWARDSHIP, August 27, 2023

Candles:	\$ 51.00
Sunday Offering:	336.00
TOTAL:	\$ 387.00

Tithely Donations:	\$ 326.55
PayPal Donations:	25.00
TOTAL:	\$ 351.55

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 738.55

WISH LIST

With the rising costs in almost everything, our Parish of St. Elia, along with everybody else, is also facing financial difficulties in the present and more in the future to meet the daily bills on time. Thank you to all who faithfully donate. If you are able, please consider making special donations of the Parish needs of items listed on the

WISH LIST:

Paper towels

Bathroom Tissues

Kleenex

Dishwasher Soap

Incense (\$20.00 for a half pound)

Censor Charcoal (\$30.00)

4-hour votive candles (\$36.50 a gross)

7 Day Votive Candles (\$52.00 for a case of 12)

REMEMBERING OUR CATECHUMENS

Daniel Slife; Kristopher Barnhart

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and Popadia Donna Freude

Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Archbishop Benjamin; Archbishop Nathaniel

Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)

Phyllis (sister of +Rose Marie Vronick)

Florence Lambo

Martin Vronick

Nicoletta (Nikki) Bober

Pani Dolores Zuder

Mitered Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak

Matushka Christine Zebren

Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan

Subdeacon Martin Paluch

Barbara Harp (sister of Veronica Bilas)

Ted Theodore

Sarah Kostadinova

Melissa Trace

Gerald Gray (father of Subdeacon Aaron Gray)

Louis Hakim

Daniel Sugden

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Gregory Yova (Project Mexico)

PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY

Almighty God, Creator of the world, we give Thee thanks for the gift of stewardship and work. Deliver us, in our various occupations, from the service of self alone, that we may do our work in truth and beauty and for the common.

God of justice, we pray for all workers, that they would receive fair compensation and treatment in their labor.

For those who seek work, provide jobs — both citizen and immigrant alike. For those who cannot work, provide sustenance. Make those who lead the industries and commerce of this country responsive to your perfect will. Build up in the leaders of our country a respect for all laborers. Deliver us, Lord Jesus, from the maligning evils of greed, sloth, and gluttony that we may lead lives of holiness in service to Thee and our neighbor.

For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

